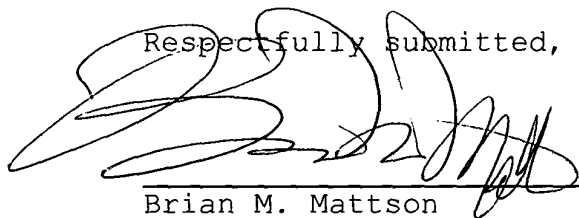


REMARKS

By the present Preliminary Amendment, Applicant amended the specification to correct an informality. More specifically, the specification, as filed, claimed the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/270,291 filed February 17, 2001. However, U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/270,291 was filed February 22, 2001. Accordingly, the Specification was amended to correct the filing date of the priority document. Applicant also amended the specification to state that the present application is a divisional application of U.S. Non-provisional Application Serial No. 09/892,057, filed June 26, 2001. In addition, Applicant canceled Claims 1-12.

Applicant requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to examination of the application. In view of the foregoing amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the specification, as amended, claims priority to the proper provisional application. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining claims in the application are in allowable form and that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **Preliminary Amendment** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed: Mail Stop Patent Application, September 3, 2003.



Brian M. Mattson (Reg. No. 35,018)